

THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN

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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



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**THE
VULTURE
IS A
BIRD OF
PREY!**



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER/EDITOR

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The Devastator scan

... AND JUST NOW, JOE
DESPERATELY WISHES
HE WAS IN SOME OTHER
BUSINESS ENTIRELY...

LISTEN!
IT'S ALL A
DUMB MISTAKE!
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHO YA WERE!

I WUZ JUST
DOING WHAT I'M
PAID TO... JUST
FOLLOWIN'
ORDERS!

AND I
AM JUST
FOLLOWING
INSTINCT.

THE
VULTURE'S
INSTINCT--

--TO STRIKE
WHEN HIS PREY
CAN FIGHT OR
FLEE NO MORE!

N-NO...
PLEASE!

WHATTA YA
GONNA DO WITH
ME? W-WHATT?!

...DISTURBING ONLY A
FEW IN PASSING.

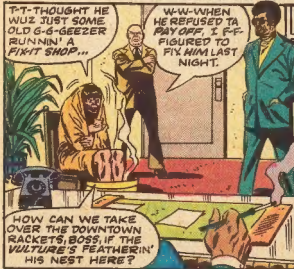
H-HUH...?

THE VULTURE DOES NOT SAY,
BUT HIS GREAT WINGS CLEAVE
THE WINTER AIR, SWIFTLY
CARRYING THE SCREAMING
HOOD OVER CITY ROOFTOPS...

LIKE FOR
INSTANCE, THIS
STARTLED
EX-SLEEPER
...PETER PARKER.



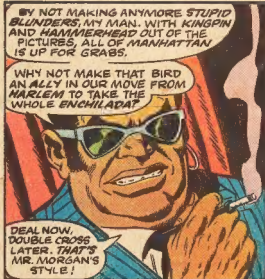
...SO THAT DAYLIGHT FINDS HIM MAKING A REPORT...



T-T-THOUGHT HE WUZ JUST SOME OLD G-G-GEEZER RUNNIN' A FIX-IT SHOP...

W-W-WHEN HE REFUSED TA PAY OFF, I F-F-FIGURED TO FIX HIM LAST NIGHT.

HOW CAN WE TAKE OVER THE DOWNTOWN RACKETS, BOSS, IF THE VULTURE'S FEATHERIN' HIS NEST HERE?



BY NOT MAKING ANYMORE STUPID BLUNDERS, MY MAN. WITH KINGPIN AND HAMMERHEAD OUT OF THE PICTURES, ALL OF MANHATTAN IS UP FOR GRABS.

WHY NOT MAKE THAT BIRD AN ALLY IN OUR MOVE FROM HARLEM TO TAKE THE WHOLE ENCHILADAT?

DEAL NOW, DOUBLE CROSS LATER. THAT'S MR. MORGAN'S STYLE!



AND IF THE GANGSTER CHIEF IS AT HIS BRUTAL BUSINESS BRIGHT AND EARLY... OTHERS ARE NOT.

HOO BOY! DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I SLEPT AT ALL...

*MORGAN LAST APPEARED IN CAPT. AMERICA #183- ARCH.



MAYBE I CAN SNATCH A COUPLE OF EXTRA Z'S BEFORE...

KA-RIPES!

MUST'VE SHUT OFF THE ALARM EARLIER AND GONE BACK TO SLEEP!



GOT LESS THAN A MINUTE TO CATCH MY BUS!



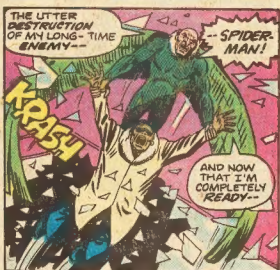
PETER PARKER DOESN'T HAVE A PRAYER OF REACHING IT ON TIME--

-- BUT SPIDER-MAN MIGHT JUST COME THROUGH!

THOUGH WITH MY LUCK, MY WEBBING SACK WILL BREAK AND THE WIND'LL SCATTER MY STREET CLOTHES FROM HERE TO NEW JERSEY!

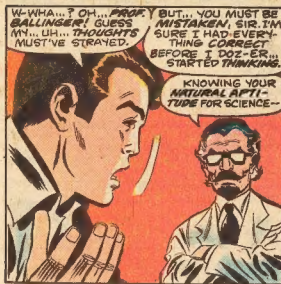
Fwip!







... BUT SOON ENOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY TO APPRECIATE THE SITUATION'S HUMOR.



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CHANGE COLOR AS YOUR EMOTIONS CHANGE!
AND HERE'S MY FAVORITE PART-- WHEN YOU TAKE
THE RING OFF YOUR FINGER, THE HERO
VANISHES!



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ADJUSTABLE
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FINGER!

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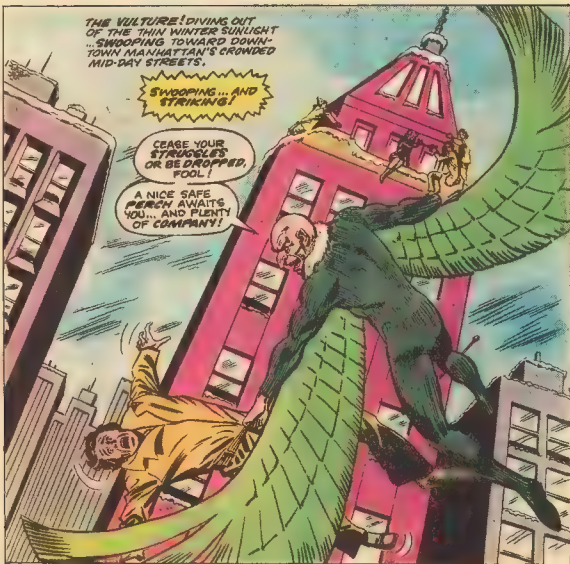


THE VULTURE! DIVING OUT
OF THE THIN WINTER SUNLIGHT
...SWOOPING TOWARD DOWN-
TOWN MANHATTAN'S CROWDED
MID-DAY STREETS.

SWOOPING... AND
STRIKING!

CEASE YOUR
STRUGGLES
OR BE DROPPED,
FOOL!

A NICE SAFE
PERCH AWAITS
YOU... AND PLENTY
OF COMPANY!

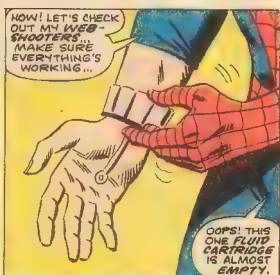
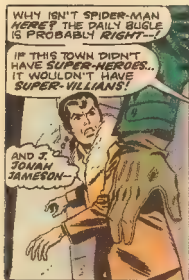


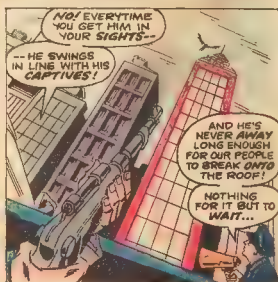
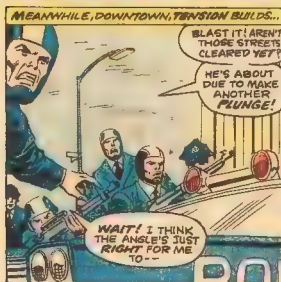
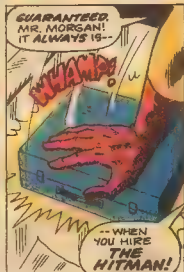
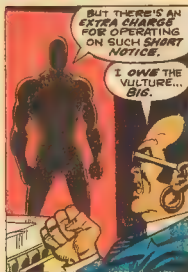
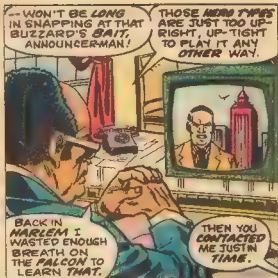
W-WHY'S HE
DOIN' IT...?
WHAT'S HE
WANT WITH
THEM PEOPLE?

IT'S ON THE
NEWS! HE
ALERTED ALL
THE MEDIA
EALIER.

HE'S VOWED TO
GRAB A HOSTAGE
EVERY FIFTEEN
MINUTES...UNLESS
SPARK-ANN
FACES HIM!

LORD!
ANY OF
US COULD
BE NEXT!





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PETER PARKER'S

PAD

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Dear Folks,

I've just read PETER PARKER #1, and from every aspect it looks nice. It's a real winner.

But since the title begins with PETER PARKER, I hope that we can see more of a character study of Mr. Parker as this book progresses. Let's see more of him than just as a face that hides behind a mask, okay?

Dave Kalis

7570 Byron Place, Clayton, MO 63105

Will do, Davel. That devout threesome—Claremont, Goodwin, and Wein—have been closeting themselves away, working out their continuity plans for the next twelvemonth. And you can just bet that the Spider-conspirators have something up their sleeves vis-a-vis the character of one Mr. P. Parker.

Dear Marvel,

You goofed!

In the Bullpen Bulletins you show the cover of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN with different cover copy than that which actually appeared.

Aside from that, I think this mag is not only spectacular, but also great, magnificent, and fantastic. I'm sure glad you gave Spider-Man an extra book—though even three mags a month are not enough for us Spidey fans. Say, how about bringing back some old villains like Electro, the Vulture, the Prowler, and the Lizard?

David Lambert

8302 Shenandoah Drive, Austin, TX 78753

Not sooner said than done, Davel. The Vulture makes his long-awaited return in this very issue. And if you check out your friendly neighborhood newsstand, you should still be able to pick up this month's ish of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN with not only the Lizard, but Stegron, too! As for Electro, well, he was just recently seen bedeviling our newest mystery man from beyond the stars in the pages of OMEGA THE UNKNOWN. And while we're not sure just what Hobie Brown is up to these days, you never know when he might decide to go on the prowl again! So hang in there, Mr. Lambert! For as we all know, Marvel villains never vanish forever! They might vanish for a while, but sooner or later—in one form or another—they almost always return.

But as for our supposed goof on our first cover—it just ain't so! Ya see, between the time the cover was shot for the Bullpen Bulletins, and the time it finally went to press, we changed our minds. (Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Simple Answers?)

Dear Marvel Madness,

I just finished the first issue of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and it was great! The art was fine, and the story was very original and all that. I think you've really got something worth putting on the stands here. (By the way, I bought six copies. I only wish I had done the same with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1.) Keep up the good work.

'Nuff said

Terry Kambouris

41 Kent Road, Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4L 2X5

Dear Spider-People,

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1 was a very good story. Like most Spidey stories, it was well written and smoothly paced. And even though the Tarantula got away at the end, I'm confident that Spider-Man will finally defeat him. Spidey really showed his skill this issue—especially with that behind-the-back web-shot (page six, panel 3). And, of course, Sal's art was excellent as usual.

I hope that all issues of PETER PARKER are as good as this first.

Till Spidey reveals his secret identity, make mine Marvel!

John Collins

238 Willow Avenue, Som, MA 02144

Dear Marva,

PETER PARKER #1 was really far out. The cover was very nice, and the return of the Tarantula was handled very well. He is but definitely one of Spider-Man's more dangerous foes, and this time he seemed deadlier than ever.

One thing I didn't like was the idea of having Mary Jane and Flash Thompson seeing each other. Come on, guys! M.J. is supposed to be Parker's girl, right? This romantic triangle thing has become a little overplayed, and I'd like to see some settlement of it...as soon as possible.

Also, it would be nice to see Spider-Man in action against some super-villains who are powerful than him. Tackling villains like the Executioner, the Abomination, or the Absorb Man would give us the opportunity to really show Spidey using his wits. How about it?

Wilson Rivera

83 Meyer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206

The Executioner, the Abom...sheesh! Aren't those guys just a tad bit out of Spidey's weight class, Wilson? And besides, Len Wein tells us that two of those guys are gonna be returning soon—if indeed they haven't already—in a couple of the books he writes. But not SPIDER-MAN!

And as for Mary Jane's sometimes roving romantic inclinations, we can only tell you to keep reading all three of Spidey's books, 'cause something is about to happen that will knock you right out of your web!

Friends,

PETER PARKER #1 was, in a word, spectacular. I was thrilled to see an all-out, rock 'em-sock 'em action epic, with Spidey making mince-meat out of the Tarantula and the thugs as only he can. And that full-pager on page 23! Magnificent!

I love the idea of having the plots in this new book blend in with the regular AMAZING SPIDER-MAN stories. However, instead of having two vaguely connected stories, why didn't you just put the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN out every two weeks?

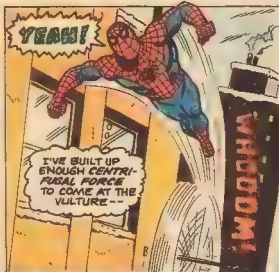
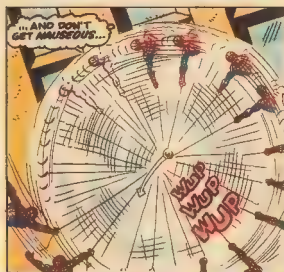
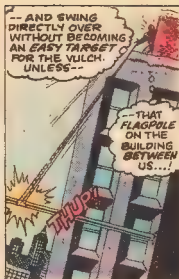
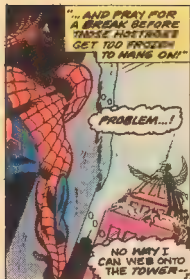
Jay Marks

1500 Edris Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90036

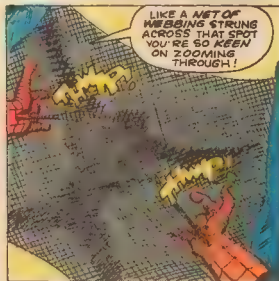
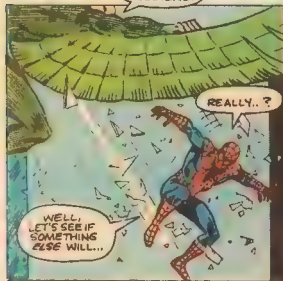
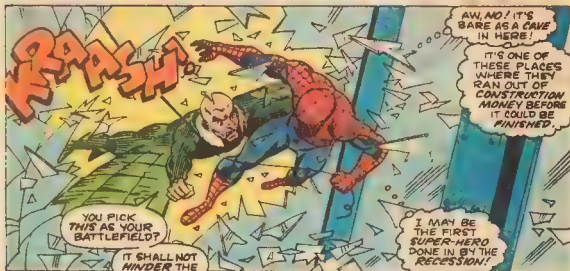
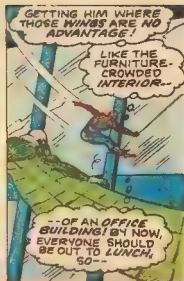
"Every two weeks?!! YAAARRRGHH!"

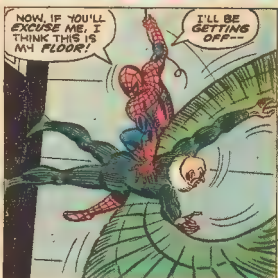
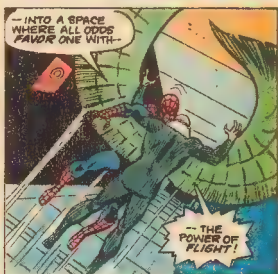
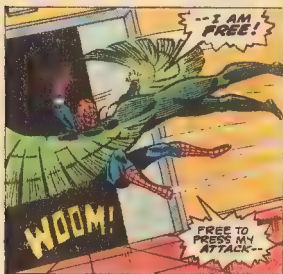
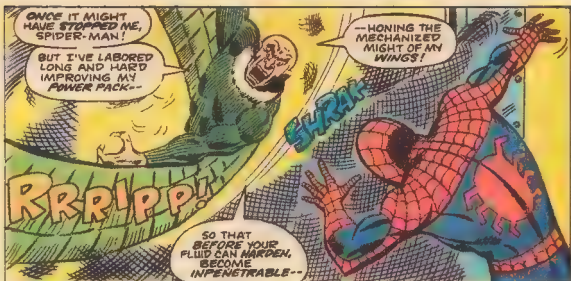
Thud

Now look at what you've done, Jay! You've just made Lively Len Wein pass out! And Len's having enough problems meeting his deadlines on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, HULK, and THOR (and soon the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR) as it is. The very thought of doing a biweekly book...well, you get the picture! (Hey, somebody get a bucket of water and the smelling salts!)









WITH WINSOME WAGS, WARPED WRONGDOERS AND A WANDERING WARLOCK!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Y'know, the biggest problem with writing these Soapboxes is the calendar! What I mean is, here I am writing these wondrous words early in September, but you won't be reading them till sometime in December! You see, it takes us a full three months to get our masterful mags written, drawn, lettered, colored, printed, distributed, and into your greedy, grasping, grateful hands! So, here I sit, sagaciously scratching my pointy little head as I try to think of something to say that will be interesting and newsworthy to you three months hence! But you can now relax. Truth and justice have suddenly triumphed and virtue hath been rewarded! I've just thought of an item that'll warm the very cockles of the heart of Marveldom Assembled! Didja know that we've licensed SPIDER-MAN to Daring Denny Allan, President of the famous Register & Tribune Syndicate, as a newspaper comic strip? Even as your startled eyes peruse this awesome announcement, ol' Spidey is preparing for newspapers all around the world, dailies and Sundays! Drawn by Jazzy Johnny Romita, and written by yours truly (who's glad to be back in harness again), our first incredible installment features the ol' webslinger battling Dr. Doom against the background of a United Nations terrorism threat! If Spidey isn't in your favorite newspaper yet, now's the time to phone your local Feature Editor, or drop him a line condemning him for allowing his readers to dwell in a cultural wasteland! And, before turning you loose, we might as well mention two additional new strips which I've foisted upon the hapless newspaper-reading public. One is SAYS WHO?, a series of contemporary egs, using photos of world-famous celebrities (kinds like our old MONSTER MADNESS mag, remember?). The other is a satirical soap-opera drawn by Fearless Frank Springer and distributed by Titanic Tom Darsay's ever-loving Los Angeles Times Syndicate, called THE VIRTUE OF VERA VALIANT. When I tell you that readers are already beginning to refer to it as VERA VALIANT, VERA VALIANT, you'll get the whole hysterical idea! So that's it! SPIDER-MAN! SAYS WHO! THE VIRTUE OF VERA VALIANT! All now appearing in some of the greatest newspapers throughout the world! See all the extra work we do, just so we'll have news items for you each month? No—don't bother thanking us. Just remember—wherever you go, wherever you do, whenever you can—keep thinkin' Marvel! And, if that gets a little heavy, we can always fall back upon "Demagogued non intelligent!"

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! What's black and white and green all over? Well, it might be a penguin with terminal grass stains, but the answer we're holding out for is: THE RAMPAGING HULK! Why? Because that's the title of the brand new dollar-size black-and-white magazine featuring the world's favorite greenskinned goliath! Yep, just like CONAN and DOC SAVAGE, the incredible one is going to be coming at you in the kind of no holds barred action that only a novel-length, large format black-and-white mag can provide. And it's all going to happen on a bi-monthly basis, as writer DOUG MOENCH, artists WALT SIMONSON and ALFREDO ALCALA, and editor JOHN WARNER work to bring you some of the most off-beat epics in our emerald-hued hero's career. Look for THE RAMPAGING HULK... on your newsstand now!

ITEM! Contrary to what some residents of suburban New Jersey may think, that wasn't an earthquake that rocked the area a few weeks ago, merely a super surprise party staged in celebration of Genie GENE COLAN's fabulous fifteenth birthday. Thanks to the planning—to say nothing of the cunning—of Gene's charming wife Adrienne, the whole affair was a complete secret to the Genie one right up to the moment he walked into a neighbor's house to be confronted by a veritable horde of well-wishers, including such Bullpen luminaries as Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN, MARY and MICHELE WOLFFMAN, Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN, and Fabulous FLO STEINBERG. Considering what gossip most of us in the comics field are (if an artist changes brushes in the morning, the whole industry knows it by the afternoon), Adrienne's surprise tactics must rank right up there with D-Day. And we think the effort couldn't have been done on the behalf of a more deserving guy. Besides being one of the best pencils in the business—Gene's HOWARD THE DUCK and DRACULA are the talk of fans and professionals alike—the softspoken Mr. Colan is about as nice a person as you could ever hope to run into. All of our best to one of our best, Genie!

ITEM! As long as we're dispensing felicitations, let's extend them to Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT and Bashful BONNIE WILFORD, and to Impish IRENE VARTANOFF and Sparkling SCOTT EDELMAN on their recent marriages. We may no longer be doing romance comics, but no one can say there's not still plenty of the real thing floating around the bullpen!

ITEM! How about RED SONJA? Not only has she graduated from the pages of MARVEL FEATURE into her own full-fledged title (the second issue of which ought to be winging its way to your comics rack any day now), but the first lady of sword and sorcery now has a song written about her. Working from inspiration provided by writer/editor ROY THOMAS

and Sonje artist FRANK THORNE, MIKE and SAL CAPUTO have fashioned "The Ballad of Red Sonja," which was given a special premiere performance recently at Lily Langtry's, a popular New Jersey nightspot. There was press and TV coverage and a lot of loud applause from local Sonja fans. Plans are now underway to have the song recorded; as soon as there's further word, we'll keep you posted. Gee, wonder if this marks the beginning of a trend? Consider the possibilities: "The Black Panther Boogie!" "Minuet for the Mad Thinker!" "The Howard Hustle!"...Sort of scares you, doesn't it?

ITEM! December is a big month for followers of MASTER OF KUNG FU! Issue 50 sees the cataclysmic climax of the six part epic adventure Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Peerless PAUL GULACY have been meticulously building to for over half a year now. Admirers of comics as a form of graphic art have long been complimenting us on this series, and, with pardonable pride, we have to admit they're right. This month's account of Shang Chi's clash with Dr. Fu Manchu fully confirms it. See for yourself. We're sure you won't be sorry.



ITEM! Let's close out this month's session with a glance into the crystal ball for a few hints about what's in store for the future. For those who've been wondering what's happened to WARLOCK and DEATHLOCK since the demise of their own titles, watch up-and-coming issues of MARVEL TEAM-UP, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. Fans of Tolkienesque fantasy should keep their eyes peeled and their thirty cents at the ready for the appearance of "Tyndall's Quest," another item scheduled for SPOTLIGHT. And he sure to read Stan's Soapbox next issue. If all goes well, our fearless leader will be announcing details on one of the most exciting projects we've ever had a chance to bring your way. How's that for a cliff-hanger ending to the column?



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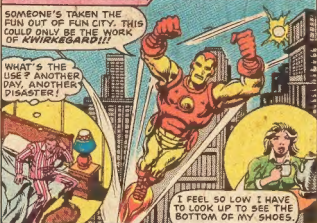
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IRON MAN IN "CITY CRISIS"

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Issue!**

SPIDER-KILL!